SOME THEATRE FIRES IN PAST TIMES

n thrill throughout the world. It has served also to recall other disasters, the most recent of which is the destruction of the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

The Brooklyn Academy antedated the present generation, and the passing of the historic building marks an epoch in metropolitan, if not in American, history. From its stage spoke Beecher and Cuyler and Matthew Arnold, and Wendell Philips, John B. Gough, Richard S. Storrs and all the famous lecturers and orators of the golden age of the lyceum. For forty years it was the scene of the chief political railles of hoth great parties. It was there that applauding thousands heard not only the greatest singers of today, but also Nilson and Patti and Gerster and Cary and Brignoll, and Campanini, and their predecessors of years before. Upon that stage were heard musicians from Rubenstein and Ole Buil to Paderewski. There Theodore Thomas and his Philharmonic Society for many years enucated the musical inste of Brooklyn. There, too, were seen and heard some of the chief ornaments of the dramatic stage—Fechter, and Wallack, and Gilbert and Florence, and Modjeska, and Jofferson and Duse and Salvini and Irving and Bernhardt and Lawrence Barrett; and there too, was given the last performance of Edwin Booth, with thronging thousands sadly murmuring "Good night, sweet Prince!"

MELANCHOLY EVENT.

more heart-rending melancholy event than the burning of the Brooklyn Theatre on the night of the 5th of December, 1976, has never, perhaps, taken place in this country. The daily pressivened with graphic accounts of the borroe. It caused general mourning throughout the United States and is often mentioned at the present day. Three hundred pleasure seekers burned alive.

The relative discovery which was made in the reins of the theatre on the following day—the pathetic senters at the historic frames. New York and Brooklyn with the freepest sorrow. Three hundred of the L700 people in the sudience perimbed, and bis of the bodies were so blankened discovery which was made in the reins of the recognized by intimite friends.

The Translated at the present day interested of the L700 people in the sudience perimbed, and bis of the bodies were so blankened discourse in the recognized by intimite triends. the historic building marks an epoch in metropolitan, if not in American, history,

sebed, and 18 of the Schoe set that sharkened distincted and mutisted that they could not be recognized by intimate friends.

The scan set at the theatre that night was "The Boat House" in the "Two Orphan." It was a sense enclosing within carvas three sides of the stare, with a carony roof above, indiway between the ficos and the "files," or roof of the stare. At the back were two great doors, which, at the climat of the story, were to be burst oven by the police, coming to the rescue of the billed orphan girl. The scene occupied the whole stare of the that the story of the testire. At the drop of the curtain on the last act, the stage was crowded with forty or fifty persons in the play. At the critical moment of the real tracedy the scene of the mimic drama was occupied by only four persons. Mirs Kate Charon who was playing Louise, the blind girl; Mrs. Mary A. Farren, who ameared as Madame Fochard: J. B. Studley, as Jucques, and H. S. Marloch, as Pierre. To this little group first of all on the stage and in its front, came the certilest intimation of impending disaster. They beard, but did not see it. One of the "files" of the stawe—the long stream ers which cross the stave, and representativer "sky" or "ceiling," as occasion may require—was blown violently significants as as jet, and duckly ignited. The men and as outchy out sway the burning piece, and it fell—link! not to the stage, as they anticinated, but upon the minted canvas roof of the "boat house," and randidy burnied theyauth. Miss Charton and Mrs. Furfail escaped by an undersycund passage to the box office, "Mr Murdock, seeking his dressing room to make some valuables, perished. Most of the victims were young girls and young men and boys. From the apprehence of the about house," and four house is the shock and weight, and the wickless which covered them and from the known location of the stairway leading to the shock and weight, and human mass crushed into the ceilar, ten four himsers the first that the start of the mon shone bright, and all was sti

foet below.

WITHOUT WARNING.

The night was beautiful and clear, the moon shone bright, and all was still outside except that carriages rumbled as they drew up near the entrance in articipation of a quiet termination of the play. The curtain, which had just been rung up on the last not, revenied a scene of exciting and pathetic interest to the gay audience, it was the interior of the hevel boat house on the Seine. The blind Louise (Miss Claxton) lay on a bed of straw; on the left of the stage was the half attle room, reached by a short stairway, to which Louise was taken by Madame Fochard (Mrs. Farren), while Herrietta (Maud Harrison) was knocking. The lame Pierre (Mr. Murdoch) was there, and Jacques Fochard (Mr. Studley) completed the personages of the scene which was approaching an awful cilmax. Brarks were seen by the audience to drof, from the roof of the hovel to the stage. Men rose in audien fright. Somebody in the lobby cried "Fire! Fire!" and raised the Arem.

MAD RUSH.

The people stood scell-bound, as the scenery fell and revealed a fire-enveloped stage. Another instant and they were scized with frartle terror, and rushed midly for the doors.

Centuctor exceptional and the indescribable pathe among the audience lasted possibly ten minutes.

Soon the sroans and screams of women

on the grouns and screams of women and children were slienced in sufficiation and strangling by the hot smoke. The

Burning of Brooklyn Academy of Music in the Year of 1876.

THE RICHMOND DISASTER

Graphic Account of the Fire in Which the Governor of the Commonwealth Perished.

(Correspondence of The Times-Dispatch.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—The burning of Ironuois Theatre, in Chicago, with the loss of 190 lives, has caused a thrill throughout the world. It has served also to recall other disasters, the

RICHMOND DISASTER.
On Thursday night about 10 o'clock.
December 26, 1811, (the night after Christmas), the Richmond Theatre was attended by an unusual number of people. The ed by an unusual number of peptic. Including fatal night had been, set apart for the benefit of Mr. Placide, (father of the famous actors of that name), and a pantomime entitled "Agnes and Raymond," or the "Bleeding, Nun," translated by Mr. Girardin, was to have closed the ement of the evening.

musement of the evening.

The house was crowded, not only with
the taste and fashion of the whole city,
but with the Governor and the most distinguished functionaries of the State. The hast scene of the pantomime was on when on changing the seco of a bal when on changing the sees of a dail room to a street, they drew up a chande-lier, without having extinguished the lights, and observed that they set fire to the scenery above. Several sparks fell on the stage, a battle took place behind the scenes, but the audience imagined that it was a part of the play, until one of the actors, against Robinson, rushed on of the actors, named Robinson, rushed or of the actors, names nonstances to the stage, exclaimin: "The house is on tire! An indescribable confusion ensued. The theatre was so constructed that to escape from the fire was impossible. All was confusion and dismay. Shrieks from was confusion and dismay. Shricks from women and children were frightful, and added to the horror; black smoke and flames cuild. added to the horror: black smoke and flames curled over the house, extingu'shing the lights. The destruction of human life was greatest at the box doers, which being closed, they were all blocked in and consumed by the flames. Shri ks. groans, agony and death, in its most terrific form, closed the tragic scene. The imagination may better paint, than the pen describe, the unutterable anguish of the gay assembly. In one moment, hilarity and joy were exchanged for the most agonizing sorrow and distress, and a multitude of precious and immerial most agonizing sorrow and distress, and a multitude of precious and immortal souls, at a time they little expected, were plunged into the world of spirits. Oh, heavens! what a horrible revolution did one minute produce! A whole theatre wrapt in flume—a gay and snimuted assemily suddenly thrown into the wildest fesses! The number of lives lost on this assemily suddenly thrown into the wholes despair. The number of lives lost on the lamentable occasion was about 55. Among the unhappy victims was the then Governor of Virginia, George W. Smith. Fifty ladies of the best old Virginia families perished.

PRINCE WILLIAM COURT.

Holds Its Last Term-Tribute to Judge Lipscomb.

(Special to The Times-Distatch.)
MANASSAS, VA., Jan. 7.—Prince William County Court held its last session to-day, after one of the dullest terms known for years. The terrible condition of the roads p evented persons who had busi-ness at court from being here, and all contested cases had to be continued, because witnesses could not get here to

tertify.

The har last Monday passed resolutions of regret at parting with Judge Lipscomb, and raid a high tribute to his worth as a man and an officer.

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Gracefully Paid by One of First Professors at the University of Virginia.

INTERESTING SKETCH

Jefferson Greatly Surprised at the Youth of His Professor of Ancient Languages.

The following interesting sketch of one of the first professors at the University of Virginia, was written by Professor

with profit. It is a this control that he publishes the tribute to General Lee and at the same time rebukes the Boston publishers, as follows: "I have been informed that an American publisher has printed the first edition of this translation of M. Anteninus. I do not grudge him the profit, if he has made any. I have also been informed that the American publisher has dedicated this translation to an American. I have no objection to the book being dedicated to an American; but in doing this without my consent the publisher has transgressed the bounds of decency. I have never dedicated a book to any man, and if I dedicated this, I should choese the man whose name seemed to me most worthy to be joined to that of the Roman soldier and philospher. I might ded cate the book to the successful General who is now President of the United States, with the hope that his integrity and juswith the hope that his integrity and Jus-tice will restore peace and happness so far as he can to these unhappy States, which have suffered so much from war and the unrelenting hostility of wicked But as the Roman poet said:

Victrix causa Deis placult, sed victa Catonl:

and if I dedicated this little book to any man, I would dedicate it to him who led the Confederate armies against who led the Confederate armies against the powerful invader, and retired from an unequal contest defeated, but not dis-honored; to the noble Virginia soldier whose talents and virtues placed him by the side of the best and wisest man who sat on the throne of the imperial

Cacasia."

COULD LEAVE IT OUT.

When the book was being published an American bookseller in London declared that he would not take a single copy it American bookseller in London declared that he would not take a single copy it this remained. Mr. Long would not consent to leave it out and the London publishers gettled the matter by printing it on a separate page, "which," says Mr. Long, "the indignant Yankee may tear out, if he likes, to please his customers." This was actually done, as I have been informed by Bouthern gentlemen who sent for the book and received it with this page form out. They became ashamed of this course at last, and the book can now be bought as it came from the London press.

Mr. Long was born in 1800, the same year with Macauley, and was with him in the same college and class. In 1821 Long and Macaulay each won the Craven University scholarship. This was some compensation to Macualay for his failure, strange to say, to win one of the three silver goblets for the best English declamation of that year. A few years

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The Tremendous Work Done by the United States Patent Office.

MANY TRAINED EMPLOYES

A Movement on Foot to Erect Building to Preserve Patent Archives.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 9.-In the rush of the holiday buying, the average purchaser never stops to think what the

patents of the patents issued and trademarks, ableds and prints registered during the last week in 1962. It will be seen that the bulk of the patent is issued and trademarks, ableds and prints registered during the last week in 1962. It will be seen and its proportion and its proportion and its proportion of the prop

The refining influence of music in the home and the necessity of a musical training for the children has made the

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Sir,-It is inferred, from an article reently appearing in your paper, that you hold the measure reorganizing the judicial system and abolishing the County Courts, to be a wise one.

On the principle of adaptation to a new order of things it may be so, but if the time has come when these grand old courts could no longer be preserved in existence, it ought never to come when old courts could no longer be preserved in existence, it ought never to come when they will not be preserved and honored in our memories. While they were not adopted by many of the newer States, they were by nearly all of the original thirteen, and have been preserved in Virginia longer than almost any other State. While other courts held larger jurisdiction in litigation and matters of that character growing out of pecuniary transactions, no others were comparable to them in the influence they exerted over the domestic policy and weifare of the people. When invasion began in 1881 no other single instrumentality was so effective in providing and equipping men to go forward promptly for the defense of our northern and eastern frontiers During the invasion no other single instrumentality was so effective in providing for the safety and maintenance of the men, women and children who were left at home. And in 1895, when invasion was followed by a dreadful period of anarchy, no other single instrumentality was so efficient in restoring law and or-

in the temper and spirit then pray would have been tantamount to the utter crushing of the white race; of which we have as unadulterated a type here in our State as now exists where else on the face of the earth. An important feature in this plan was the provision which required the County Courts to be presided over by a single judge, instead of a Bench of Magistrates.

of Magistrates.

At that time this feature was devised and regarded as what is commonly called a "elincher" and it is said that when the president of that convention set his hand to that Constitution, he was asked whether Virginia would thereafter be surely Republican and his reply was, "until time ends and parties shall be no more."

ginia longer than almost any other State.

While other courts held larger jurish diction in litigation and matters of that character growing out of pecuniary transactions, no others were comparable to them in the influence they exerted over the domestic policy and welfare of the people. When invasion began in 1851 no other single instrumentality was so it effective in providing and equipping men to go forward promptly for the defense of our northern and eastern frontiers. During the invasion no other single instrumentality was so effective in providing the invasion no other single instrumentality was so effective in providing the invasion no other single instrumentality was so effective in providing the invasion no other single instrumentality was so efficient in restoring law and order.

In addition to their serviceableness, there was an adaptedness in the County Courts to the views and feelings of the people of Virginia, who have always held to that of "county rights" for the reason that there is the same philosophy in preserving the rights of Stutes in their relations to the Federal government, and no other judicial system was ever devised which both doctrinally and practically so clearly exemplified this creed as the good old system of County.

Under that system as it existed until 1850 and was administered by a Bench

The best way to get a quo um of the Legislature is for some one to introduce a bil to increase the pay of members. They would all flock to Richmond then.—Blackstone Courier.

To Children.

Any child sending us 30 blue coupons taken from packages of Quaker Gelatine will be sent free, one set of Uncle Sam's Caunets, containing a photograph of every President from Washinston to Roosevelt and three of his cabinet. The latest, best and most popular game, worth \$50, in any family.

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